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HOUSE RESOLUTION 407
By Brown

A RESOLUTION to create a special committee to study the adequacy of funding for the Basic Education Program (BEP).

WHEREAS, the Basic Education Program (BEP) was instituted by the General Assembly in 1992; and

WHEREAS, the BEP formula has been upheld by the Tennessee Supreme Court as providing an equitable system for funding public education in this state; and

WHEREAS, the BEP formula has not been studied in detail since its initial implementation in 1992; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That there is hereby created a special committee to study and make recommendations for changes in the funding formula for the Basic Education Program (BEP). The committee's recommendations shall address adequacy in funding for Tennessee's public school systems, while also preserving equity in funding as required by the Constitution of Tennessee.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the special committee shall consist of the following members:

Two (2) external experts in adequacy funding in education, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

Two (2) school board members from local education agencies that receive less than seventy-five percent (75%) of state-shared funding under the BEP, to be appointed by the Commissioner of Education from a list of five (5) nominees submitted by the Tennessee School Board Association;

Two (2) school board members from local education agencies that receive seventy-five percent (75%) or more of state-shared funding under the BEP, to be appointed by the Commissioner of Education from a list of five (5) nominees submitted by the Tennessee School Board Association;

Two (2) school superintendents from local education agencies that receive less than seventy-five percent (75%) of state-shared funding under the BEP, to be appointed by the Commissioner of Education from a list of five (5) nominees submitted by the Tennessee Organization of School Superintendents;

Two (2) school superintendents from local education agencies that receive seventy-five percent (75%) or more of state-shared funding under the BEP, to be appointed by the Commissioner of Education from a list of five (5) nominees submitted by the Tennessee Organization of School Superintendents;

The Chair of the House Education Committee; and

Seven (7) members of the House of Representatives, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the following persons shall serve as ex-officio, non-voting members of the special committee:

One (1) representative from the Tennessee School Board Association;

One (1) representative from the Tennessee Education Association;

One (1) representative from the Tennessee Organization of School Superintendents;

The Commissioner of Education or the commissioner's designee;

The Commissioner of Revenue or the commissioner's designee; and

The Director of the Office of Education Accountability for the Comptroller of the Treasury.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all appropriate state agencies shall provide assistance to the special committee upon request of the chair.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all legislative members of the special committee who are duly elected members of the General Assembly shall remain members of such committee until the committee reports its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the non-legislative members of the special committee shall serve without compensation, nor shall they be reimbursed for travel expenses.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Speaker of the House may deny approval for payment of per diem and/or reimbursement of travel expenses for the legislative members of the special committee, if a meeting of the special committee is not held in conjunction with, or at the same time and place as, a meeting of another special study committee, standing committee or statutory committee of the General Assembly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the special committee shall be convened by the member with the most years of continuous service in the General Assembly, and at its first meeting shall elect a chair, vice-chair, and such other officers the committee deems necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the special committee shall timely report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the One Hundred Third General Assembly no later than February 1, 2003, at which time the committee shall cease to exist.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the provisions of this resolution shall become operative only in the event that House Joint Resolution No. ____ (drafting number 016245) is not adopted by both houses of the General Assembly.